Balasore-Jamsola four-lane road upto NH-5

*216. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that newly constructed four-lane road connecting NH-5, which was diverted from Balasore towards Lakhannath Gate *via* Jalasore, has been badly damaged during the month of October, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal of Government to construct four-lane road on NH-5 from Balasore towards Jamsola due to failure of the said lanes?

THE MINISTER FOR SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Due to unprecedented rainfall in Balasore district from 21st to 24th September, 2007 and the opening of the gates of Sunei, Kolo and Baldiha dams by the irrigation authorities, the entire length of NH-60 forming part of Golden Quardrilateral in Balasore district of Orissa was highly flooded, which severely damaged the approaches of bridge No.: 4/1 at km 3/170 and bridge No: 4/2 at km 3/370 on NH 60. After temporary restoration, the bridges were opened to traffic on one carriageway on 1st October 2007 with one way traffic. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is engaged M/s Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) to study the adequacy of waterways provided in view of the observations made on the recent floods. Based on the study necessary corrective measures, if required, would be taken.

(c) No, Sir.

Permission to receive direct STD/ISD calls

†*217. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has ever permitted telephone exchanges of BSNL to directly receive STD or ISD calls which are made through private telecom companies;

(b) whether it would not result in loss of revenue to Government;

(c) if not, whether telephone exchange situated in civil area of Allahabad was permitted in the year 2003 to receive STD/ISD calls of Reliance Infocom;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the estimated amount of loss of revenue to Government as a result thereof and the action proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Sir, Telephone exchanges of BSNL are permitted to directly receive STD/ISD calls made through private telecom companies, at the level of its SDCC Tandem, LDCC TAX and Level-1TAX depending upon the type of call and nature of service.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) M/s Reliance Infocom Ltd. as a Basic Operator was provided TAX POI at the Civil Lines OCB Local-cum-TAX Telephone Exchange of Allahabad in the year 2003 for handover of its originating STD/ISD calls.

(d) It was permitted in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Interconnect Agreement and as per the framework prescribed in the license granted by Department of Telecom to M/s Reliance.

(e) No loss of revenue resulted to BSNL on account of this permission.

Acronyms:

SDCC-Short Distance Charging Centre

LDCC-Long Distance Charging Centre

TAX-Trunk Automatic Exchange

POI-Point of Interconnect.

Development of forest villages

*218. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Afforestation and Eco Development Board is involved in the development of forest villages;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the schemes in force to provide minimum facilities for the forest dwelling scheduled tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) A specific scheme for development of forest villages titled "Development of Forest Villages" is being implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) of the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP). Under the scheme, funds are provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to the Tribal or Social Welfare Department of States which in turn provides funds to the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs). The scheme aims to provide basic infrastructural facilities like approach roads, drinking water, healthcare, minor irrigation etc. and support to the livelihood of the villagers. The National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board (NAEB) does not directly implement this scheme, it assists the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in examination of the proposals received from State under this scheme. The NAEB has also issued guidelines in April 2004 to assist the formulation of projects under the scheme.

As per information provided by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, proposals covering 2388 forest villages/habitations in 11 States have been approved and a total amount of Rs. 45924.71 lakhs have been released during 2005-06 to 2007-08 (as on 15-11-2007) under the Development of Forest Villages Scheme. The State wise details are enclosed as per statement.